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YUGOSLAV DECREE ON SEAMEN'S BOOKS

[The following Decree on Seamen's Books became effective in Yugoslavia 29 January 1954.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

Article 1

A seaman's book is a document which describes the characteristics of the seaman, his specialized qualifications, the position he holds, and the duration of his service aboard ship.

The book serves as a travel passport when the seaman is abroad on a voyage and when he is returning to home port. In such cases a visa from authorized agencies is necessary.

Article 2

Citizens of Yugoslavia shipping as crew members, including deck hands, engineering hands, cooks, and stewards, on Yugoslav Merchant Marine Ships must have a seaman's book.

On fishing boats and other vessels, members of deck and engineering crews prescribed as minimum crews for such vessels must have a seaman's book.

Article 3

Seamen's books are issued according to a form prescribed by the director of the Administration for Maritime and River Transportation (Uprava pomorstva i rijeonog saobraćaja).

Seamen pay for seamen's books.

Article 4

A seaman's book contains personal data and data on special qualifications for ship service, on permission for ocean navigation, on medical examinations given on embarking and debarking, on revoking authorization for engaging in specified occupations aboard ship, and on visas of authorized agencies.

Except for data described above, it is forbidden to enter any other type of data in a seaman's book.

Article 5

As a rule, seamen's books are issued to individuals who are 15 to 25 years old.

Article 6

A seaman's book may be issued to a person under 15 years of age but not less than 14 under the following conditions:

1. If he is sailing with a crew made up entirely of his relatives.
2. If his employment on board ship would be to his benefit, and would be compatible with his health and physical condition.

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For person's over 25 years of age, a seaman's book may be issued as follows:

1. To the owner and co-owner of a ship, and their first degree relatives. These individuals may ship for 3 years on their own ship or on board the ship of their first-degree relative.
2. To a seaman who shows that he has served in a position listed under Article 2, paragraph 1, for a minimum of 3 years on a merchant ship under a foreign flag, provided 3 years have not expired since he last shipped.
3. To individuals who have completed training for a specified service in inland navigation, if such training is recognized by the Yugoslav Merchant Marine.
4. To individuals who spent their military service on board a Yugoslav Navy ship for a minimum of 2 years. They must petition within a year after their service ends for permission to sail on ocean-going vessels. Within 30 days of receipt of permission they must petition for a seaman's book.
5. To individuals transferring from the Yugoslav Navy to the Yugoslav Merchant Marine, provided their occupation is recognized in the Merchant Marine.
6. To individuals who have completed training in a nautical or ship engineering section of a secondary [the word "secondary" is taken from source 2] naval school, or in the electrical technical section of a secondary technical school.
7. To individuals who have learned the trade of an electrician, mechanic, chauffeur, or carpenter; or persons trained as stewards, cooks, and in other skills needed aboard ship.
8. To trained radio telegraphers.

Article 7

Individuals over 25 who do not fulfill any of the conditions outlined in Article 6 may be issued a seaman's book only with the approval of the Administration of Maritime and River Transportation.

Article 8

Individuals employed on technical floating equipment and on fishing boats may be issued a seaman's book, provided they are not over 40 years of age and that they have been employed on their respective boats or equipment for an uninterrupted term of 3 years, or 5 years in a total of 8 years. They must petition for permission to sail on ocean-going vessels within 6 months of the date this decree becomes effective. (1)

Individuals issued a seaman's book according to the above paragraph may be employed for the first 3 years after the receipt of the book only on technical floating equipment or fishing boats. (2)

Article 9

Seamen's books are issued upon written request. The requester must append all necessary documents.

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Article 10

Seamen's books are issued by the port captaincy authorized according to the residence of the requester.

The director of the Administration of Navigation and River Transportation regulates the authority of port captaincies in the issuance of seamen's books.

Article 11

If a seaman's book has no more room for entries or is worn out, a new book will be issued to replace it and the old one destroyed.

If a seaman's book is lost, announcement must be made that it is no longer valid, after which a duplicate will be issued. The price of a duplicate is twice the original price, except in cases where the loss of the original was the result of a higher power [act of God].

Article 12

Appeals are permitted against decisions of the port captaincy which deny the issuance or exchange of a seaman's book, the entry of data in a book, or correction of incomplete or incorrect entries. Appeals must be made to the authorized maritime administration within 15 days of the receipt of a decision.

Appeals are forwarded to the port captaincy which issued the decision in the first instance.

Article 13

A seaman's book ceases to be in force under the following conditions:

1. When the permit for sailing on ocean-going vessels expires.
2. When a seaman has not shipped for 4 years.

Paragraph 2 does not apply to commanders of ships, deck or engineering officers, radio telegraphers, steersmen, or stokers, if they have been engaged in the occupation concerned for a minimum of 2 years.

Article 14

The port captaincy keeps records of seamen's books issued.

Article 15

Petitions, additions, and certification in connection with the issuance, completion, and extension of seamen's books, as well as all entries made in the books, are exempt from tax payments [usually levied on such documents.]

Article 16

Seamen's books for crew members are kept by the owner of the ship. When debarking, these books will be handed over to their owners.

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Article 17

Fines will be imposed as follows:

1. The owner of a ship will be fined up to 10,000 dinars if he employs a crew member who does not have a seaman's book or whose book is not valid, provided the individual concerned is required to have a book.
2. The owner of a ship will be fined up to 5,000 dinars for the following violations:
 - a. Entering into a seaman's book data which is forbidden to be entered, or not entering data the owner is obligated to enter.
 - b. Destroying a seaman's book which is in his safekeeping.
 - c. Not returning a seaman's book to a crew member who is debarking.

Article 18

Seamen's books issued previous to this decree remain valid until they are exchanged for new books.

Article 19

The director of the Administration of Navigation and River Transportation is authorized to issue detailed regulations for the execution of this decree.

Article 20

The day this decree becomes effective, the following become void: the former Decree on Seamen's Books (Sluzbeni list FNRJ, No 69, 1946), the regulations issued on the basis of this former decree, and the Order on Exemption From Taxes in Issuing Seamen's Books (Sluzbeni list FNRJ, No 71, 1946).

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